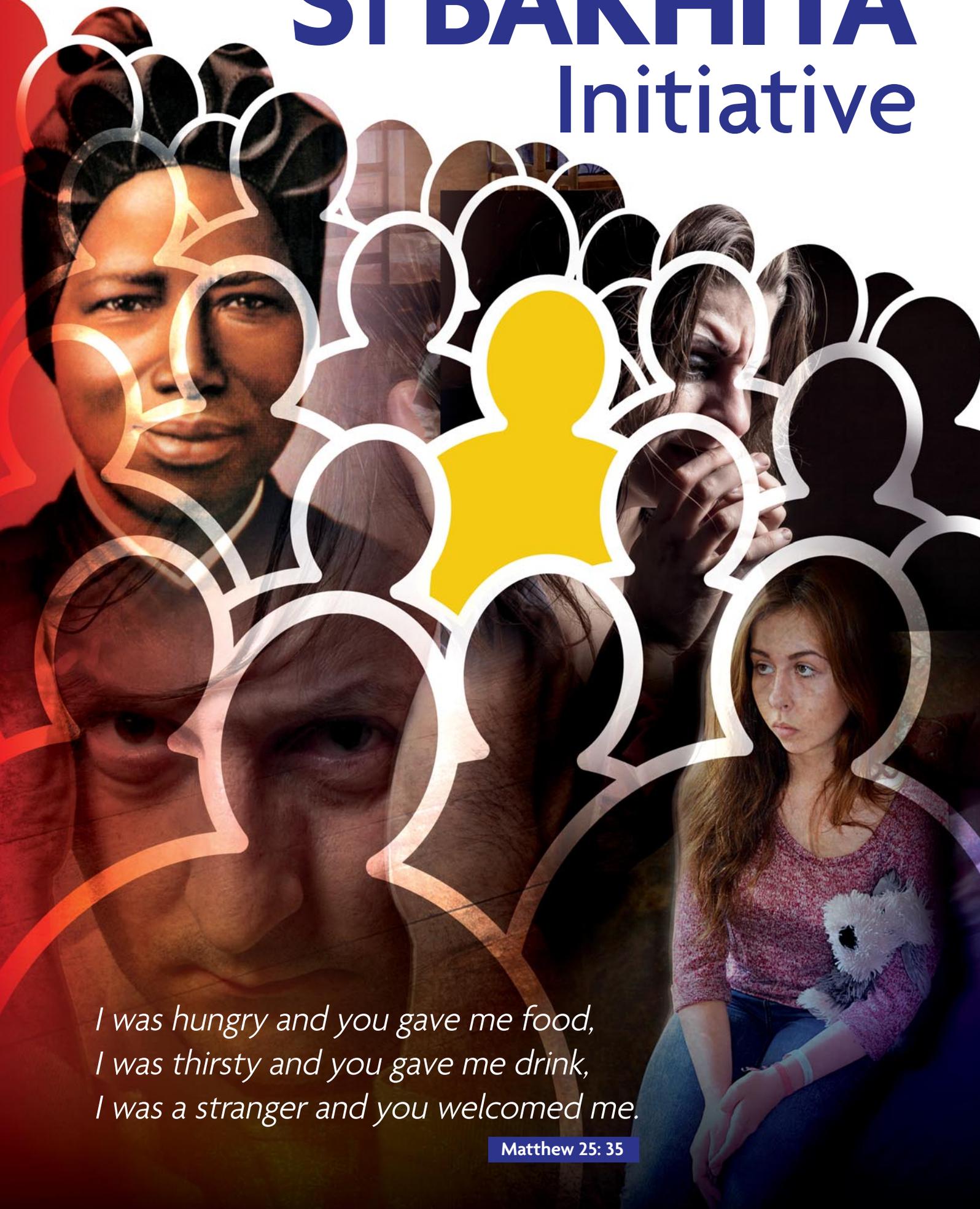




The ST BAKHITA Initiative



*I was hungry and you gave me food,
I was thirsty and you gave me drink,
I was a stranger and you welcomed me.*

Matthew 25: 35

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Slavery exists today here in the UK and throughout the world. Despite the work of William Wilberforce and others, around 13,000 people endure hidden captivity and abuse in our country. Globally, over two million people are known to be trafficked annually. Those statistics, and the horrifying individual stories they represent, are the reason why the Church is mobilising in a major campaign to tackle the scourge of modern slavery and trafficking.

This Case for Support outlines how the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, working in close partnership with the Archdiocese of Westminster, is providing an integrated response to slavery in its global, regional, national and local forms. The Bakhita Initiative through the Santa Marta Group, the Bakhita Research Institute and Caritas Bakhita House is a comprehensive approach that focuses on prevention, pastoral care and reintegrating victims..

PROFILE OF SAINT JOSEPHINE BAKHITA

This very special Initiative is named after Josephine Bakhita, who was born in 1869 in Darfur, Sudan. When she was seven, she was kidnapped by Arab slave traders. She was so traumatised by the brutality of her captors, she could not remember her own name - and was mockingly dubbed "Bakita"- the fortunate one.

At age 13 her cruellest torture left her permanently scarred. Her final owner brought her to Italy and when the family had to go away on business, they left Bakhita and their child in the care of the Canossian Sisters in Venice.

In 1890 she asked to be baptised and received the name Josephine. When the family returned to reclaim her, Josephine resisted – the court upheld her freedom, since slavery was not recognised in Italian law.

In 1896 she took her vows as a Canossian Sister and for the next fifty years lived a quiet, prayerful life in one of their convents in northern Italy. Josephine Bakhita died in 1947 and was the first Sudanese national to be proclaimed a saint in 2000.



Pocket contact card with emergency number.

THE MODERN SLAVERY ACT, 2015

With strong all-party support, the Modern Slavery Act is widely recognised as a landmark piece of legislation. It will give extra powers to police and other agencies to prevent and detect suspected trafficking. A new independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner has also been appointed to co-ordinate cross departmental Government working, so agencies can focus their response. They will also facilitate mandatory reporting of trafficking cases to a central contact point.

The Act will also give extra protection to victims and make it far simpler for them to give evidence. Convicted perpetrators of slavery offences will be subject to harsher penalties, including life sentences and the confiscation of assets from which they can be made to give reparation to victims.

One of the Act's most important measures will end the terrible dilemma faced by many victims of modern slavery – of being obliged to convict themselves in order to incriminate their slave-masters – by safeguarding them against prosecution.



PERSONAL MESSAGE FROM CARDINAL VINCENT NICHOLS

As dedicated Catholics I believe we should strive to play a leading role in the successful prevention of, and the fight against all forms of trafficking occurring in the public or the private domain. But this ambition will only happen on the scale necessary, through much closer working amongst all the agencies involved in addressing the problem.

I would remind you that human trafficking is the slavery of our time. It is a gross violation and an unspeakable exercise of mental and physical control over a defenceless individual. People may be surprised to learn that much of this exploitation happens closer to their home than they might realise.

Typically we know of many individuals who come to our shores hoping that it will bring a positive change in their life. After arriving at an unfamiliar town or city they are forced into exploitation. They do not have the means to protect themselves or to escape, as they might have arrived illegally. They are now an object to be traded and with no personal documents their identity and dignity have been stolen.

According to the United Nations, human trafficking is the second most lucrative criminal enterprise in the world after arms dealing. This is partly due to weak law enforcement and a fundamental lack of understanding of the problem.

This growing issue demands our serious attention. The horrors of being exploited, abused and dehumanised cannot and will not be tolerated. Some victims have managed to escape and tell us their stories, so now we are building a picture of the problem which will help us to conquer it.

The Saint Bakhita Initiative significantly strengthens the Church's response to human trafficking. It will focus our efforts and act as a catalyst for a number of practical interventions. I therefore ask that you consider our project plans carefully and give serious thought to making a major gift to this cause.

INTRODUCTION

MODERN SLAVERY IS A HIGHLY LUCRATIVE ORGANISED CRIMINAL ACTIVITY AND THE RESPONSE NEEDS TO BE UNEQUIVOCAL, DETERMINED AND COLLABORATIVE.

Traffickers use violence, coercion and deception to take people away from their homes and force them to work against their will. Many of the victims are women and children and, according to the UN, enforced prostitution is one of the fastest growing most lucrative global crimes. Other victims end up in domestic servitude or as farm and factory workers. Traffickers face few risks and can earn enormous profits by taking advantage of large numbers of poor and vulnerable people who can be trafficked both between and within countries.

Following the lead of Pope Francis and at his request, Cardinal Vincent Nichols is giving leadership on a global and national level to a partnership that works to:

- meet the complex needs of those who have been trafficked or exploited in slavery;
- raise the profile of the problem amongst key players and groups;
- offer options for prevention and education; and
- maximise the opportunity for detection and detention of traffickers and slave masters.

Human trafficking takes place within the broader phenomenon of globalisation and especially migration. The motivations for migration run from immediate threats to life because of war or persecution, through to

situations where economic conditions or environmental degradation make the prospect for life, even mere survival, marginal or non-existent. With economic and environmental conditions worsening in many countries, the likelihood will be even more migration, as people naturally and legitimately seek to improve their lives, when they cannot do so in their homeland - in the process many may seek the help of smugglers or fall victim to traffickers.

Trafficking is modern-day slavery. Traffickers use violence, coercion and deception to take people away from their homes and families and force them to work against their will. Many of the victims are women and children. According to the UN enforced prostitution is one of the fastest growing, most lucrative crimes.

Traffickers face few risks and can earn enormous profits by taking advantage of large numbers of poor and vulnerable people. Victims are trafficked both between countries and within countries. Those trafficked may be forced to work as servants, in prostitution, as farm and factory workers etc. Trafficked persons are almost always exploited, they are victims of crime and their treatment is a violation of their human dignity.

CURRENT SITUATION

HUMAN TRAFFICKING NOW RANKS AS THE SECOND MOST PROFITABLE WORLDWIDE CRIMINAL ENTERPRISE AFTER THE ILLEGAL ARMS TRADE.

The International Labour Organisation estimates that 2.4 million people are trafficked globally and that annual profits from trafficking in human beings are as high as \$32 billion. Those exploited can be found in the world's restaurants, fisheries, brothels, farms and homes, among other places.

The 2014 Global Report on Trafficking in Persons published by the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) showed that one in three known victims of human trafficking is a child - a 5 per cent increase compared to the 2007-2010 period. Girls make up 2 out of every 3 child victims, and together with women, account for 70 per cent of overall trafficking victims worldwide.

It would appear that nowhere in the world is safe from human trafficking - there are at least 152 countries of origin and 124 countries of destination affected by trafficking in persons, and over 510 trafficking flows criss-crossing the world. Trafficking mostly occurs within national borders or within the same region, with transcontinental trafficking mainly affecting wealthy nations.

Trafficking for forced labour - including the manufacturing and construction sectors, domestic work and textile production - has also increased steadily in the past five years. There are, however, regional variations: victims in Europe and Central Asia are mostly trafficked for sexual exploitation, whereas in East Asia and the Pacific forced labour drives the market.

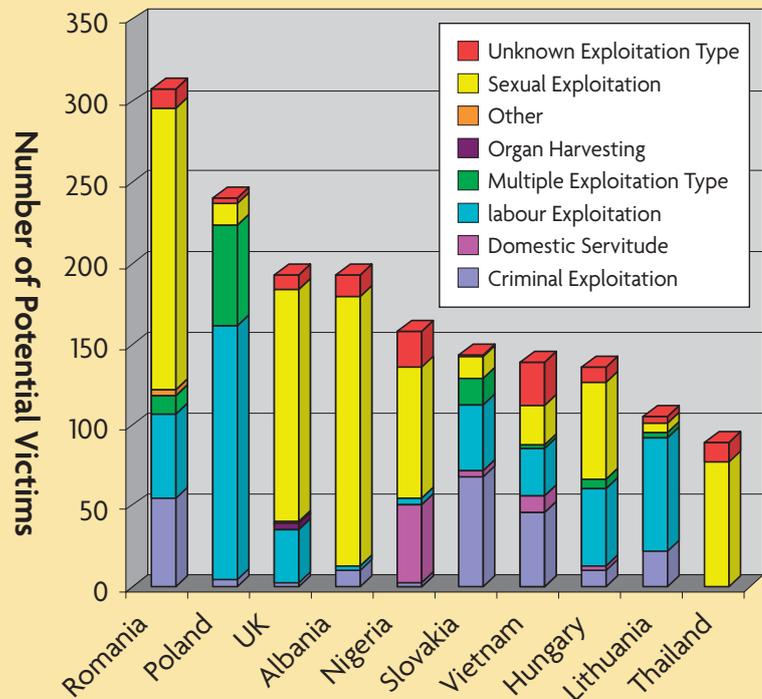
The report highlights that impunity remains a serious problem: 40 per cent of countries recorded few or no convictions, and over the past 10 years there has been no discernible increase in the global criminal justice response to this crime, leaving a significant portion of the population vulnerable to offenders.

In the UK, the black market in forced and exploited labour has grown. Sleeping in poor conditions, working for £1 a week and too indebted to have any hope of a better life, the victims of modern day slavery are voiceless and living in unconscionable circumstances. The vast majority have entered Britain legally from other EU countries.

While profits are high, for most traffickers the risk of prosecution remains low. Recently one unlicensed gang-master kept Romanian apple-pickers in a "big kennel" and withheld their wages, but was fined only £500.

Some of the devices used to entice and entrap victims include bogus colleges, sham marriage operations, money laundering schemes, online dating scams, social media cons and entrapment through employment advertisements, along with networks of errant solicitors and accountants.

According to the most recent Strategic Assessment of the Nature and Scale of Human Trafficking published in 2014 by the National Crime Agency, Romania was the most common country of origin for victims and Poland was the most likely nation for labour trafficking.



THE ST BAKHITA INITIATIVE ELEMENTS

There are three related projects to the initiative - the Santa Marta Group, the Bakhita Research Institute and Caritas Bakhita House – which together provide an integrated and global response to human slavery.

THE SANTA MARTA GROUP

THIS IS AN ALLIANCE OF INTERNATIONAL POLICE CHIEFS AND BISHOPS FROM AROUND THE WORLD WORKING TOGETHER WITH CIVIC SOCIETY COUNTER HUMAN SLAVERY. Pope Francis, who has called human trafficking “an open wound on the body of contemporary society”, endorses the process.

His Eminence Cardinal Vincent Nichols, Archbishop of Westminster, leads the Group with Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe, Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police. It was named after the Papal residence where the participants at the Vatican Conference stayed in April 2014. This resulted in a signed ‘Declaration of Commitment’ by all the Chiefs of Police present to work together with the Church globally.

The objective of the Group is to combine the resources of the Church with those of law enforcement agencies to prevent trafficking and modern day slavery, provide pastoral care to victims and re-integrate in the host community or help safe return to their home country.

The Vatican conference, entitled Combating Human Trafficking: Church and Law Enforcement in Partnership, brought together twenty-four heads of national and international police and law enforcement agencies including UK National Crime Agency, Interpol, Europol, US Homeland Security, the Argentine Federal Police, Ghanaian, Indian, Thai, Australian, Irish and many European police forces to look at how they and the Church could work together to help victims.

This was followed by a second successful conference held during December 2014 at Lancaster House, London and a third gathering will meet in Madrid in October 2015. The Santa Marta Group is now an international process, coordinated by The Bishops’ Conference, and a unique high-level partnership that is already proving invaluable in sharing intelligence and promoting best practice and collaboration in tackling human slavery. The current work of the Group includes a *maritime slave labour project* involving police and church organisations in the Philippines and Thailand;



and a Nigerian based initiative focussing on preventing the **trafficking of young women**.

In the UK there are strengthening partnerships between law enforcement agencies and bodies involved in working with those who have been trafficked. In particular, the Office of the Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner, supported by the Metropolitan Police, the National Crime Agency, congregations of Religious and other support agencies are all working with the Santa Marta Group.

The Santa Marta Group will need £120,000 each year to sustain its international work, including the development of training materials and the organisation of an international calendar of projects, practical collaboration, training and regional conferences and staff costs for:

- (i) A Global Coordinator who will be primarily responsible for the policy and law enforcement aspects; and
- (ii) An administrator/webmaster.

THE BAKHITA RESEARCH INSTITUTE

THE INSTITUTE WILL FOCUS ON HIGH LEVEL APPLIED RESEARCH AND INTERNATIONAL NETWORKING BETWEEN THE CHURCH, CIVIC SOCIETY, GOVERNMENT AND POLICE/LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES. It will have a number of research strands; for example, on prevention through the delivery of an awareness raising campaign and a customised training programme. These will be done at parish and community levels for those at the forefront of combating this trade. A “train-the-trainers” element will also be included so that a greater sensitivity to the needs of this marginalised group is spread in a sustainable and cost-effective way. Training will also be provided to frontline staff and individuals who may come into contact with potential victims of trafficking and vulnerable individuals and communities, especially from Eastern Europe and West Africa.

Awareness-raising will take place in target countries, given the reality of migration to Europe. As a significant amount of trafficking is conducted through deception, e.g. the promise of a well-paid job in an international hotel chain or a major construction site in London, there is considerable scope for well-planned prevention campaigns.

In summary, the new Institute will undertake the following:

- develop and share the best applied research on patterns of trafficking;
- provide materials for education, prevention and awareness raising;
- develop training programmes for professionals conducted in the UK and internationally; and

- share best practice for supporting those who have experienced human trafficking particularly as developed through Caritas Bakhita House (see overleaf).
- empower victims, families and communities.

Following a period of development at Caritas Bakhita House, the Institute will partner with St Mary’s University, Twickenham. One of the key features of the Institute will be the ability of St Mary’s University, through foundation/degree courses and work within the campus, to facilitate access to education and employment for victims.

The initial operational costs for the Institute will be £100,000 per annum

“The key issue for me is how we convince all victims that we are here to help, and that we can make a difference to their lives, no matter how desperate their situation may seem. When you are living in the grip of fear, how do you know who you can trust?”

Commissioner Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe
London Metropolitan Police

CARITAS BAKHITA HOUSE

MANAGED BY CARITAS WESTMINSTER THE HOUSE WILL BECOME AN ESSENTIAL PART OF THE BAKHITA INITIATIVE. This facility will provide assistance to the most vulnerable and traumatised individuals, who have experienced human trafficking, particularly those who fall outside the existing structures of support. Caritas Bakhita House staff will work closely with the Santa Marta Group and the Bakhita Research Institute to establish a strong ethos of rehabilitation, care and trust.

It will be a 'triage' centre for the emergency placement of women escaping human trafficking and its function will be to support the beginnings of the restorative process. Bakhita House has a pan-London role and will also be a national resource, since it will take victim referrals from anywhere in the UK on the basis of need.

The property occupies a quiet residential London street and the local Catholic Parish is already committed to supporting its work. Caritas Bakhita House will provide accommodation for up to fourteen female guests over the age of seventeen, as well as non-resident victims. Care will come in the form of:

- emergency support;
- medical and psychological therapy;
- legal and financial assistance; and
- mentoring and help with accessing accommodation.

Through its vital mission Caritas Bakhita House will promote the following Christian values and principles to all that use its services:

- **LOVE** - Expressed in compassionate support and long term commitment
- **RESPECT** - for the gift and dignity of each individual
- **COMMUNITY** - a welcome which creates friendship and belonging
- **SPIRITUALITY** - nurtured by that Joy in creative activity which lifts the spirit.

Caritas Westminster has recruited a Service Manager with overall responsibility for the house as well as developing networks and services in support of guests. Other team members being recruited include a House Manager, as well as two night workers. The team will also include the Adoratrice Sisters, who will provide pastoral support as

the specific charism of their Congregation shows dedication to nurturing, supporting and restoring the lives of those who have endured slavery.

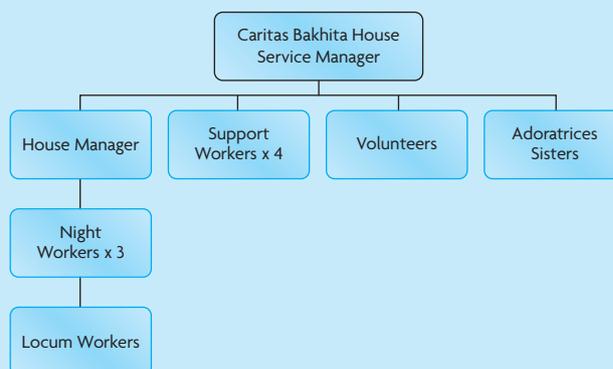
The establishment and future development of services provided by the House team will emerge as the project takes shape over the coming 12 months. Since the house is for women only, as the programme develops the project will look for additional male and family accommodation.

The implementation of the delivery schedule remains ongoing. Bakhita House is expected to open in June 2015 after the recruitment of the staff team. It will provide safe accommodation to a minimum of 48 trafficked victims per year, thanks to the availability of move on options provided by other NGO's and religious congregations. All the relevant policies, systems, referral criteria and pathways are now in place for the opening, while links with those organisations assisting with repatriation are established. A volunteer team will be recruited and inducted by September 2015 and the Family Host Scheme will be established by early 2016.

Caritas Bakhita House employees will be employed by the Archdiocese of Westminster and shall follow all of the safeguarding guidelines and policies of the Archdiocese of Westminster.

The running costs for Caritas Bakhita House will be about £350,000 per annum. The cost of purchasing the building was £3,000,000, paid for by the Archdiocese of Westminster.

Proposed Staffing Structure



THE ST BAKHITA INITIATIVE FUNDRAISING SUMMARY

Santa Marta Group <i>International coordination between Church and Law Enforcement</i>	£120,000 per annum
Bakhita Research Institute <i>Focusing on international networking and prevention</i>	£100,000 per annum
Caritas Bakhita House <i>Practical support for trafficked women</i>	£350,000 per annum

GOVERNANCE

A BOARD WILL OVERSEE AND CO-ORDINATE ALL ASPECTS OF THE BAKHITA INITIATIVE. By virtue of their offices, the Cardinal as President of the Bishops' Conference will be patron and the Bishop heading the Office of Migration its Chair. The main stakeholders are the Bishops' Conference and the Archdiocese of Westminster whilst the key partners are the Office of the Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner and St Mary's University, all of whom will be represented on the Board.

The function of the Board will be to:

- Agree and develop policy and practice;

- Regularly monitor the timely, successful and efficient implementation of the initiative;
- Support and coordinate fundraising for the Forum's activities;
- Publicise and promote the different strands of the Forum; and
- Coordinate roles and responsibilities with partner organisations.

WHY IS THE BAKHITA INITIATIVE DIFFERENT?

THIS LOCAL AND GLOBAL INITIATIVE has a number of defining features, which make it stand out from other responses to this phenomenon. For example:

- it sees the synthesis of policy and practice;
- It promotes a very special and integrated partnership between Government, the Catholic Bishops' Conference, international law enforcement, NGO's, volunteers and women religious communities;
- Alongside existing projects in this area, it presents new opportunities to Catholics to engage and act

positively on this matter, especially through parish training and volunteering;

- It establishes a model of intervention which creates high levels of synergy and that could be replicated elsewhere in the world;
- It complements the work of other Catholic charities in London, such as The Passage.
- It retains a firm focus on the victims of slavery and trafficking, on their innate dignity, their freedom and future development.

OUR OVERALL AIMS

THE CATHOLIC CHURCH, through the witness of many organisations and individuals, especially women religious, plays a significant role in helping those afflicted by this invisible trade. There is now a clear need for resources to sustain a coordinated response based around the following objectives:

- to offer direct assistance and protection to victims via the pastoral care available through the parish network;
- to seek rigorous enforcement by the criminal justice system for those who are the main perpetrators of this illegal trade;
- to encourage greater international solidarity and closer working practices eg agree signposting and victim referral protocols;

- to work towards prevention via a sound and compassionate migration policy;
- to provide specialist training and make awareness-raising available internationally and in the UK to law enforcement agencies, local authority professionals, frontline volunteers in the parishes, teachers and schoolchildren; and
- To maintain a venue serving England and Wales, with services accessible to all police forces and law enforcement agencies, serving as an international model; and
- To share intelligence with law enforcement.

Our “Call to Action”!

THE CHURCH IS PLAYING A LEADING ROLE in the global fight against slavery and trafficking; something recognised by the Metropolitan Police, which has credited the Church for its awareness raising activities both here and internationally. That struggle demands an even greater response and the Bakhita Project will, with your support, help the historic task of ending slavery.

OUR APPROACH TO FUNDRAISING

IT IS IMPORTANT THAT ALL DONORS TO THIS INITIATIVE FEEL CONFIDENT that their major gift will be managed in a way that brings about the best results and supports the most efficient work programme to help achieve our aims and objectives.

All money raised by this fundraising campaign will be paid to the Diocese of Westminster (payment details can be found at the end of this brochure). The Diocese is a registered charity number 233699.

The trustees are incorporated as “Westminster Roman Catholic Diocese Trustee” (WRCDT), a company limited by guarantee. This company does not conduct any trade or business for its own account and has no assets or liabilities. Its sole purpose is to act as trustee of a number of trusts and funds of which the Westminster Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust is the principal one.

The funds required to make the Saint Bakhita Project a success will be sourced initially through major donations from individuals and charitable trusts. A targeted events programme also has the potential to raise a significant sum each year. In the longer term, there will be opportunities for legacy giving, corporate sponsorship, and parish giving and social media methods.

You can now play a positive role in tackling human trafficking by endorsing with a major gift the continuing development of this initiative. There has already been significant investment in this project by the Archdiocese of Westminster and by the Catholic Bishops’ Conference of England and Wales. Future fundraising will be directed through the Archdiocese of Westminster (a registered charity No. 233699) and the money channelled to the major projects via the governance arrangements described earlier.

YOU CAN MAKE A SINGLE DONATION BY COMPLETING THIS FORM

Mr / Mrs / Miss / Ms	Name		
Address			
			Postcode
Telephone		Email Address	

We'd like to keep in touch via email. If you are happy with this please write your email address in the space provided. You can stop receiving emails at any time and we will not share your email address with any other organisation.

YOUR GIFT

I wish to support the work of the Saint Bakhita Initiative by making a major gift of

£25,000 £10,000 £5,000 £2,500 £1,000 £500 Other

I WOULD LIKE TO PAY BY

Bank Transfer – please make payable to our account:

Account Name: WRCDT – Bakhita Project
Account Sort: 40-05-20
Account Number: 21590677

Cheque – please make payable to 'WRCDT – Project Bakhita'

Ongoing gift of per month/quarter/year (delete as appropriate) starting on of (month) (year).

If you wish us to send you a Standing Order Instruction Form, please tick here

GIFT AID MAKES EVERY £1 WORTH AT LEAST £1.25 (at no extra cost to you)

 I am a UK Tax Payer and I would like WRCDT to reclaim the tax on all qualifying donations I have made as well as any future donations until I notify them otherwise Please tick Yes No

To qualify for gift aid I understand that I must have paid income capital/gains tax that is at least equal to the amount of tax that all the charities and Community Amateur Sports Clubs I donate to will reclaim on my Gift Aid donations in the tax year in which they are received and that other taxes such as Council Tax and VAT do not count for this purpose.

Signature	Print Name
	Date

Please detach this completed form and return to:
Fundraising, Diocese of Westminster, Vaughan House, 46 Francis Street, London, SW1P 1QN

Contact Details

All correspondence should be addressed to either:



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